

NEWS



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John Foster awarded MBE in 2011 New Years Honours List

Fosters Bakery Managing Director, John Foster, has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the 2011 New Years honours.

The award is “for services to unemployed people in South Yorkshire” recognising John’s many years of voluntary work, the latest of which is as Chair of Barnsley Work & Skills Board.

John has chaired the Work and Skills Board (BWSB) since 2007, a position he was recruited to partly because of his previous success and experience helping unemployed ex-offenders into work. The board works to get people into work and promotes up-skilling within the workplace.

Prior to 2007 John chaired the Yorkshire Food Technology Advisory Service (FTAS) until it merged with the Regional Food Group. FTAS, a not for profit company, helped raise technical standards and innovation in food companies; this helped firms secure bigger orders and employ more people.

John also worked for many years as a volunteer for Objective One Invest for Growth fund. He joined and eventually chaired an approval panel helping firms to get Objective One European funding to boost their business (and ultimately employment). On one occasion he even successfully negotiated a change in the rules to help boost investment in tourism in South Yorkshire – because tourism employs people.

For his entire adult life John’s “hobby” has always been voluntary and community work of one sort or another. We are very proud of the recognition being given for this side of his life as we are of his successful work and leadership here at the bakery.

Fosters Bakery Board